



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### LIGHTNING-CAUSED FIRE BEGINS IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Interagency fire crews responded to a report of smoke near Emma Matilda Lake in Grand Teton National Park at 4:30 on Wednesday afternoon, August 6. The Matilda Fire apparently began from a lightning strike that hit the area on Tuesday evening. The fire was contained at approximately one acre by 10:00 p.m. Wednesday evening.

When located, the Matilda Fire was burning in heavy timber between Two Ocean and Emma Matilda lakes and due to very dry conditions had potential to quickly spread. Two wildland fire engines, a Teton Interagency contract helicopter, and one work crew were immediately dispatched to the area to begin suppression actions on the 1/2-acre fire.

Four firefighters remained on site overnight, and will continue to conduct control and mop up work throughout today. Two Ocean Lake Road was temporarily closed during suppression activities on Wednesday evening, but was reopened this morning.

The Matilda Fire marks the fifth -- and the first naturally caused -- fire in Grand Teton National Park this year. Four other fires resulted from human activities, such as illegal campfires and an improperly discarded cigarette.

Area residents and visitors are reminded that partial fire restrictions are in effect, and the fire danger for both Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is listed as Very High. Hot, dry weather conditions continue to persist throughout the greater Jackson Hole area, increasing the potential for wildland fire starts. For more information regarding fire activity in the park or Jackson Hole area, visit [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com)

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